

New York*Survey Area***New York:**

Bronx
Kings
Nassau
New York
Queens
Suffolk
Westchester

New Jersey:

Bergen
Essex
Hudson
Middlesex
Morris
Passaic
Somerset
Union

*Area of Application. Survey Area Plus***New York:**

Putnam
Richmond
Rockland

New Jersey:

Monmouth
Sussex

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[FR Doc. 97-33581 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT****5 CFR Part 532**

RIN 3206-A111

**Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment
of Kansas City, MO, Special Wage
Schedule for Printing Positions**

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Interim rule with request for
comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel
Management (OPM) is issuing an
interim rule to abolish the Federal Wage
System (FWS) special wage schedule for
printing positions in the Kansas City,
Missouri, wage area. Printing and
lithographic employees in Kansas City
will now be paid rates from the regular
Kansas City wage schedule.

DATES: This interim rule becomes
effective on January 4, 1998. Comments
must be received by January 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments
to Donald J. Winstead, Assistant
Director for Compensation
Administration, Workforce
Compensation and Performance Service,
Office of Personnel Management, Room
7H31, 1900 E Street NW., Washington,
DC 20415, or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mark Allen at (202) 606-2848, or send
an email message to maallen@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
Department of Defense recommended to
OPM that the Kansas City, MO, special
wage schedule for printing positions be
abolished and that the regular Kansas
City wage schedule apply to printing
employees in the Kansas City wage area.
This recommendation was based on the
fact that the number of employees paid
from the special schedule has declined
in recent years from a total of about 70
employees in 1985 to a current total of
about 30 employees. With the reduced
number of employees, it has become
increasingly difficult to comply with the
requirement that workers paid from the
special printing schedule participate in
the local wage survey process. A full-
scale special wage survey in the Kansas
City wage area would require the
substantial work effort of contacting
about 70 printing establishments spread
over 8 counties and would require the
participation of about 10 percent of the
employees who are paid from the
special printing schedule.

Upon abolishment of the Kansas City
special printing schedule, the printing
and lithographic employees will be
converted to the regular schedule for the
Kansas City wage area on a grade-for-
grade basis. An employee's new rate of
pay will be set at the rate for the step
of the applicable grade of the regular
schedule that equals the employee's
existing scheduled rate of pay. When
the existing rate falls between two steps,
an employee's new rate will be set at the
rate for the higher of those two steps.
Pay retention provisions will apply for
the few employees not receiving
increases upon conversion. This
conversion does not constitute an
equivalent increase for within-grade
increase purposes.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory
Committee, the statutory national-level
labor-management committee
responsible for advising OPM on
matters concerning the pay of FWS
employees, has reviewed and concurred
by consensus with this change.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B), I
find that good cause exists for waiving
the general notice of proposed
rulemaking. Also, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.
553(d)(3), I find that good cause exists
for making this rule effective in less
than 30 days. The notice is being
waived and the regulation is being made
effective in less than 30 days because a
new regular wage schedule will go into
effect in the Kansas City wage area on
January 4, 1998, and employees
currently paid from the special printing
schedule for the wage area would have
received a wage adjustment on that date
had the Department of Defense been

able to conduct a special wage survey in
the wage area in 1997.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not
have a significant economic impact on
a substantial number of small entities
because they affect only Federal
agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and
procedure, Freedom of information,
Government employees, Reporting and
recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

Accordingly, OPM is amending 5 CFR
part 532 as follows:

**PART 532—PREVAILING RATE
SYSTEMS**

1. The authority citation for part 532
continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707
also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

§ 532.279 [Amended]

2. In § 532.279, paragraph (j)(3) is
removed, and paragraph (j)(4) is
redesignated as paragraph (j)(3).

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Housing Service****Rural Business-Cooperative Service****Rural Utilities Service****Farm Service Agency****7 CFR Part 2003****Functional Organization of the Rural
Development Mission Area**

AGENCIES: Rural Housing Service; Rural
Business-Cooperative Service; Rural
Utilities Service; Farm Service Agency;
USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The issuing agencies amend
their regulations to reflect the
reorganization of the Department of
Agriculture. The intended effect of this
action is to provide efficient utilization
of Department personnel resources. This
publication provides the function
statements for organizational units
within the Rural Development mission
area, the Rural Housing Service, Rural
Business-Cooperative Service, and the
Rural Utilities Service.